

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated June 5, 2007, in which claims 32 and 33 were allowed and claims 1-15, 19-31, and 34-39 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 14, 19, 21, 23, 26, 29, and 34 have been amended. Claims 1-15 and 19-39 remain in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-15, 19-31, and 34-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tapperson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,334) in view of Nelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,765,968). With this Amendment, each of independent claims 1, 8, 14, 19, 26, and 34 have been amended to state that the power bus does not include and is separate from any communication signal path. Similarly, independent claims 21, 23, and 29 have been amended to state that the power bus does not include and is separate from any communication signal path to or from the field devices. This feature of the claimed invention is neither taught nor suggested by Tapperson or Nelson.

In the Office Action, Nelson was used to show a system in which power was supplied to a transmitter via a two wire process control communication loop through a modem. In contrast, the present invention, as defined by amended independent claims 1, 8, 14, 19, 21, 23, 26, 29, and 34 does not apply power from a control/monitoring center to field devices via the communication signal bus, as taught in Nelson. Rather, the power bus in the amended claims separate from and does not include a communication signal path between the control/monitoring center and the field devices.

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As a result of the Amendment, claims 1-15, 19-31 and 34-39 are patentable over Tapperson in view of Nelson, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn. Claims 32 and 33 have already been indicated as allowed, and therefore all of the pending claims 1-15, 19-31, and 34-39 are now in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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